

**Minutes**  
**College Park Airport Authority**  
4 March 2016

The Chair, Jack Robson, called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Members present were Chris Dullnig, David Dorsch, James Garvin, Gabriel Iriate, David Kolesar, Anna Sandberg, and Jack Robson. Also present, Lee Sommer, Airport Manager.

The minutes of the Mar 11, 2015 meeting were approved.

Mr. Sommer announced that he was ready to restart the committee charged with updating the official *Airport Operating Rules and Regulations*. The committee had begun its work some years back but has been on-hold since Lee Scheik announced his retirement. He asked that the Authority provide a member to serve on the committee. A number of Authority members volunteered. As currently reconstituted, all the committee members are pilots. It was felt that the Authority should ensure input from non-pilots. Chris Dullnig formerly served on the committee and was appointed to the committee. At Mr. Dullnig's recommendation, Mr. Iriate, a professional pilot who is not a user of our airport was also appointed. He too had served on the committee in the past. All other committee members are new. These two appointments will provide the committee with members that have "corporate memory" as to the reasons changes contained in the existing draft were made.

Mr. Sommer advised that he anticipated operational access to the new terminal building would be in April with a grand opening in June. The building is essentially complete but a U&O permit is required. In addition, relocation of the fuel, weather, and ground-to-air radio systems remains to be finished.

As a result of the Purple Line go-ahead, a M-NCPPC maintenance facility must be relocated. A temporary facility will be established on the old 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron site. The existing 94<sup>th</sup> Aero building will probably be razed.

Final inspection and survey of the tree\obstruction clearance work is to be accomplished very soon. M-NCPPC has begun planting replacement trees at both ends of the field. All are supposed to be low growth. Mr. Sommer has met with the City's Tree and Landscape Board on this topic.

M-NCPPC has completed work on drainage for the historic hangar and anticipates additional work that will further restore the hangar's historic appearance and improve long-term sustainability.

WMATA development – Nothing has been heard subsequent to the announcement that Metro was once again soliciting proposals for the station site.

Mr. Sommer reported that:

For the quarter ended 12/31/2015 there were:

37 Based Aircraft  
494 Tenant Operations  
261 Transient Operations

He advised that the height of the fence on the Campus Drive side of the airport had been increased to 10 feet. This should help reduce or eliminate deer on the airport. He stated that once the new terminal was operational and the existing temporary operations trailer removed the remainder of the 6 foot fence would be replaced with 10 foot fence.

Helicopters were discussed. All agreed that the problem was not our based PG County police units, but other helicopters. If our belief is correct, most of the other helicopters generating complaints are just operating in the vicinity of the airport, not using the airport. However, the Vietnam-era "Huey's" operated by the Air Force out of Andrews definitely do use the airport and are apparently the biggest generators of calls/complaints. Mr. Sommers advised that he does liase with the Air Force and this does help. However, due to personnel turnover, the problem always resurfaces. He also explained that many people call the airport but decline to state where they live. This hinders his investigating whether the helicopters are associated with airport operations or are just in the vicinity of the airport. The need for timely reporting of problem aircraft was emphasized.

The Chair advised that the Mayor and Council had adopted our requested change to the Authority's charter. Members then discussed ways to help restore field use to its pre-9/11 level of viability. It was agreed that a number of things could be done to make the airport more attractive to the aviation community, thus increasing revenues, while remaining a "good neighbor. This included erecting 'T' hangars, obtaining a high quality flight simulator, and installing solar panels with a capacity beyond the airport's requirements. Other ideas would require rule changes and would be evaluated once Mr. Sommers' committee had come up with the draft rule changes.

The Chair presented his initial ideas on the contents of the "Annual Report" now requested by the City. Members discussed the content and suggested additions. The Chair is to update the draft and circulate it to the members for review within the next week. It will then be sent to the City.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM